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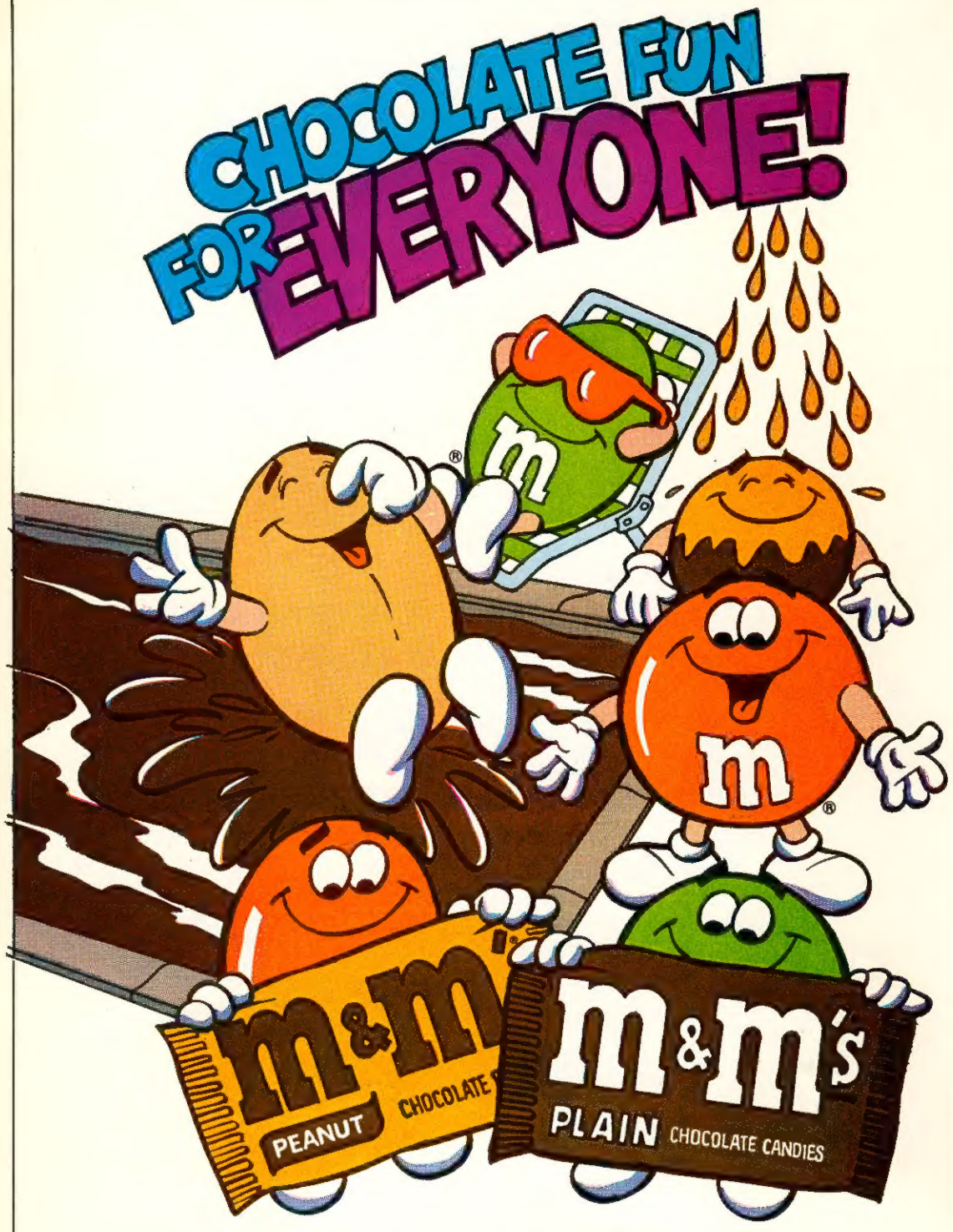

"THE MILK CHOCOLATE MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH – NOT IN YOUR HAND"®

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON!

CHRIS CLAREMONT AUTHOR / JOHN BYRNE ARTIST / DAVE HUNT INKER/COLORIST / BRUCE PATTERSON LETTERER / ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

IF DEATH BE MY DESTINY...
THE TIME IS ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AFTER THE END OF LAST ISSUE. THE PLACE: COLLEEN WING'S INWOOD APARTMENT...
THE SITUATION... IS GRAVE.
HOW'S IRON FIST DOING, DOC? HE LOOKS PRETTY ROCKY--SHOULDN'T WE BE...
THE BEST THING WE CAN DO IS LET HIM REST--WE CAN TALK OUTSIDE.
MISTY WILL GIVE A YELL IF HIS CONDITION CHANGES.

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COLLEEN, YOU SAID ON THE PHONE THAT IRON FIST WAS NEAR DEATH WHEN MISTY AND SPIDER-MAN BROUGHT HIM IN.
HE WAS. HE IS.
NOT ACCORDING TO MY EXAMINATION.
SURE, THE KID LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN IN A FIGHT, BUT THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL DAMAGE IS MINIMAL. BY RIGHTS, HE SHOULD BE UP-AND-AROUND IN NO TIME.
THE BODY ISN'T EVERY-THING, ALICE. THERE'S ALSO HIS SPIRIT.
I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A WITCH. I DON'T KNOW FROM SPIRITS...
I UNDERSTAND. THANKS FOR HELPING, THOUGH. AND THANK JERYN HOGARTH FOR SENDING YOU OVER SO PROMPTLY...
...NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN. I'LL BE BACK TO CHECK ON HIM IN THE MORNING.
COLLEEN, I'M NO MIRACLE WORKER. THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT I CAN DO WITH-OUT PROPER FACILITIES.
IRON FIST SHOULD BE IN A HOSPITAL.
GOOD NIGHT, ALICE, AND THANKS AGAIN.
THE LADY'S RIGHT, Y'KNOW. IT SEEMS KIND OF SILLY TO WORRY ABOUT IRON FIST'S "SECRET" IDENTITY WHEN HIS LIFE IS ON THE LINE.
IT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE TO MAKE, HERO.
IS IT YOURS, COLLEEN?
YES.
BESIDES, NO HOSPITAL CAN HELP HIM NOW.
I'M NOT SURE ANYTHING CAN.

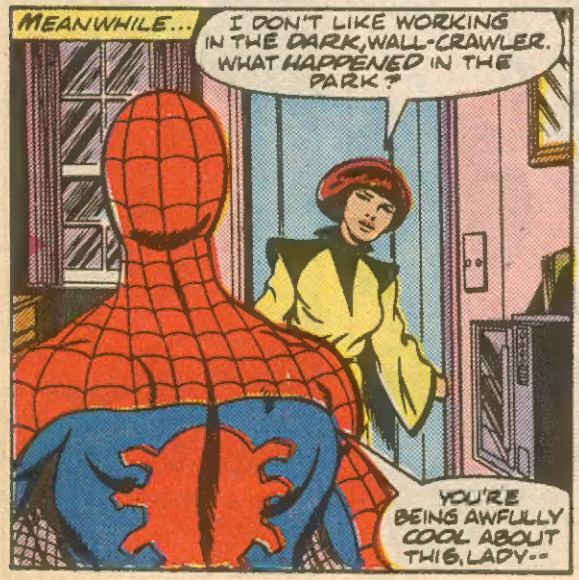
LOOK AT ME, ALL TORN UP INSIDE OVER A GUY I THOUGHT I'D CUT OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER.
FUNNY, I GUESS...
...CONSIDERING THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, IRON FIST, I TRIED TO BUST YOUR HEAD OPEN.*
*MARVEL PREMIERE #21--ARCHIE.

THEN, I GOT TO KNOW YOU, AN' I FOUND MYSELF LIKING WHAT I KNEW.
WHAT WE HAD WAS GOOD, DANNY-- I HAD SUCH... HOPES...

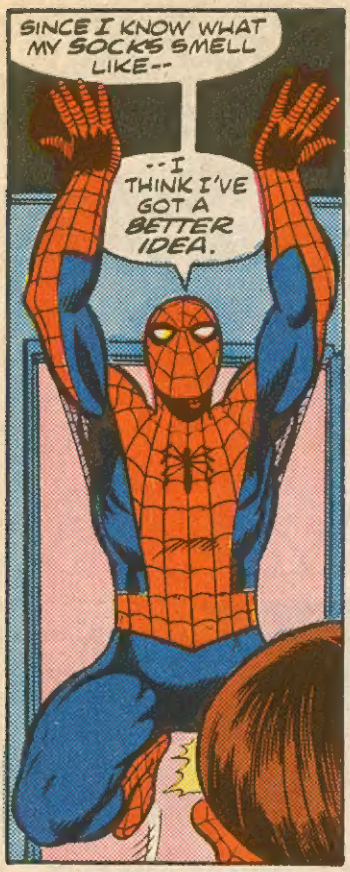
...TILL YOU FORCED ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOUR "FRIENDSHIP"-- AN' US-- AN' MY PRINCIPLES.* IT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME TO GIVE IN. BUT I ALMOST DID.
BECAUSE... YOU ASKED ME TO. I HATED YOU, THEN...
*IRON FIST #13--A.G.

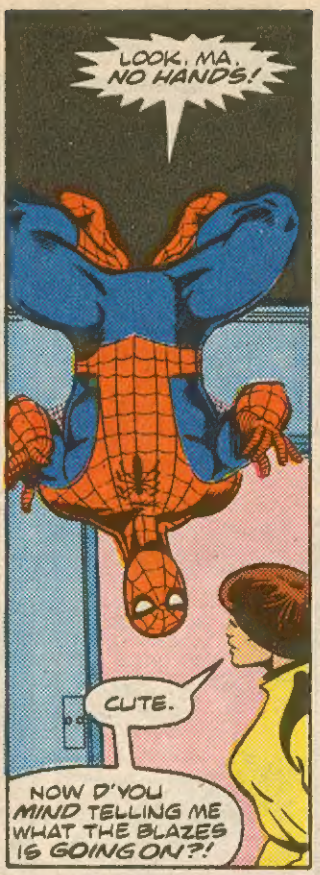
...BUT NOW...? WHEN IT'S TOO LATE...?
I... CAN'T HATE YOU, DANNY. I LOVE YOU.

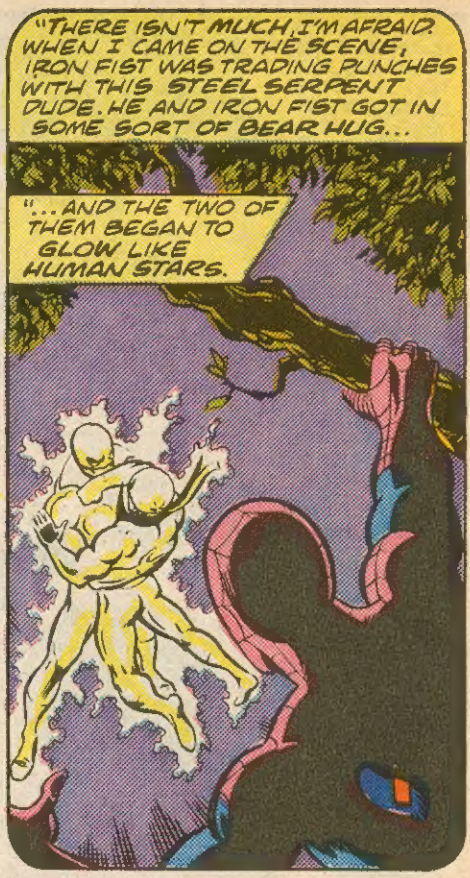
MISTY... I... KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. PART OF ME'S ALWAYS KNOWN... BECAUSE IT FELT THE SAME WAY.
I GUESS THE REST OF ME'S A KLUTZ.
I NEED YOU, MISTY. I LOVE YOU.


MEANWHILE...
I DON'T LIKE WORKING IN THE DARK, WALL-CRAWLER. WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PARK?
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY COOL ABOUT THIS, LADY--

--I THOUGHT IRON FIST WAS YOUR FRIEND.
HE'S THAT AND... MORE. BUT I'M A PROFESSIONAL, AND WHEN I'M WORKING, EMOTIONS ONLY GET IN THE WAY.
HOLD IT, PAL! THAT'S A TATAMI MAT FLOOR-- NO SHOES ALLOWED. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BOOTS OUTSIDE.


SINCE I KNOW WHAT MY SOCKS SMELL LIKE--
--I THINK I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.


LOOK, MA, NO HANDS!
CUTE.
NOW D'YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOING ON?!


"THERE ISN'T MUCH, I'M AFRAID. WHEN I CAME ON THE SCENE, IRON FIST WAS TRADING PUNCHES WITH THIS STEEL SERPENT DUDE. HE AND IRON FIST GOT IN SOME SORT OF BEAR HUG...
"...AND THE TWO OF THEM BEGAN TO GLOW LIKE HUMAN STARS.

"SUDDENLY, THERE WAS SOME SORT OF EXPLOSION THAT SMASHED IRON FIST TO THE GROUND.
"THAT'S WHAT I SAW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS."*
* A SOMEWHAT CONDENSED VERSION OF THE CLIMAX OF LAST ISSUE--ARCHIVIST ARCHIE.

IT MEANS STEEL SERPENT HAS STOLEN THE POWER OF THE IRON FIST FROM DANNY. AND WITH IT, HIS CHI-- HIS IMMORTAL SOUL.
HE'S SLEEPING NOW, BUT HE'S SLIPPING AWAY.
MISTY KNIGHT!

STILL CAN'T GET OVER THE FEELING THAT I'VE MET HER BEFORE--IF I COULD ONLY REMEMBER WHERE?!
WHAT'S WITH THE CANNON, LADY?
I'M A PRIVATE EYE, HERO. THE GUN'S A TOOL OF THE TRADE. YOU READY, COL?

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"OKAY POKEY, QUIT HORSING AROUND AND LAND THIS THING."
POW
"WATCH OUT, WE'RE GONNA CRASH!!"
"YOU REALLY BLEW IT THIS TIME!"
"HEY, OUR BALLOON IS STUCK ATOP THAT GIANT GUM DINGER!"
"WOW! LOOK AT ALL THESE FLAVORS... CHERRY, GRAPE, WATERMELON, APPLE, ORANGE, AND VANILLA AND STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM!"
"NEVER MIND THAT! HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET BACK UP THERE?"
"MMMM. BECAUSE GUM DINGER POPS HAVE A LOT MORE GUM THAN OTHER POPS, MAYBE I CAN BLOW A BUBBLE AND FLOAT TO THE TOP!"
"I ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE FULL OF HOT AIR!"
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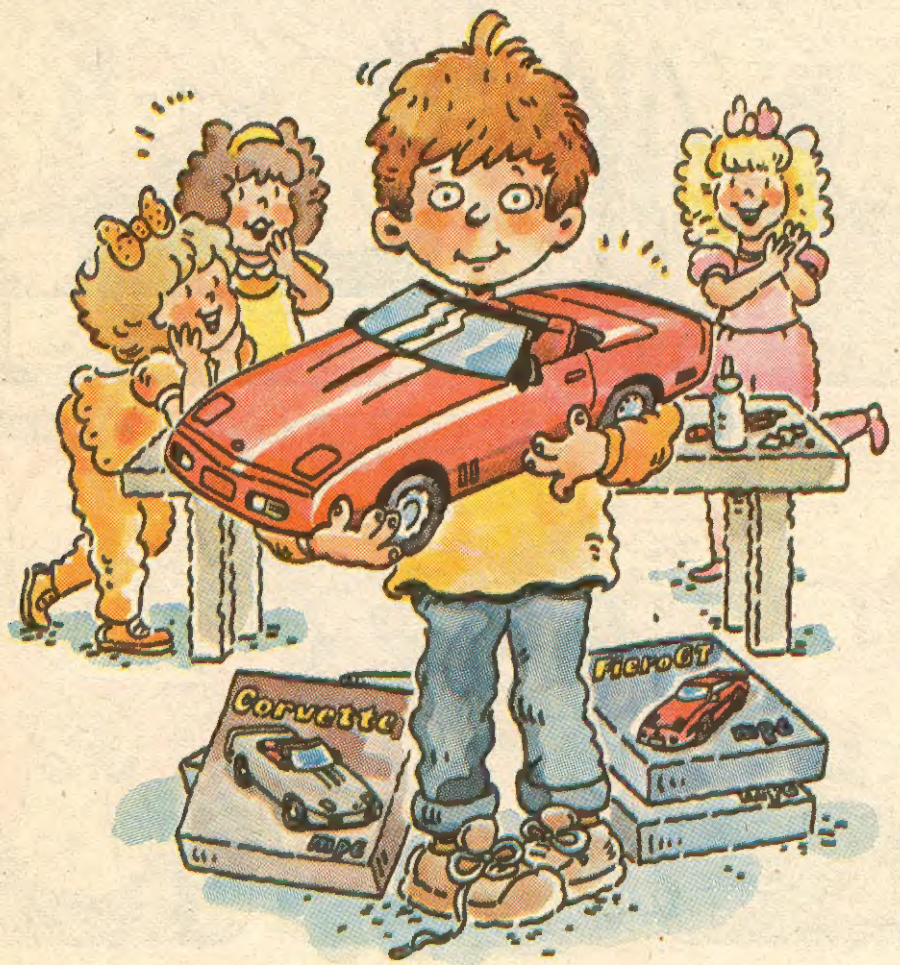
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER SCAR-FACE, ARE YOU!? 'CAUSE IF YOU ARE, YOU'RE CRA
IT'S IRON FIST'S ONLY HOPE, SPIDEY. WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM AND STEEL SERPENT TOGETHER, TRY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRAL...
YOU ARE CRAZY!
D'YOU THINK SCAR-FACE IS JUST GONNA STAND AROUND AND LET YOU ZAP HIM?! IF THE POWER HE STOLE CAN BE RESTORED TO IRON FIST--
--HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO STOP YOU. HE'LL NEVER BE SAFE SO LONG AS IRON FIST LIVES...
OH. LADIES, I JUST HAD A VERY BAD THOUGHT.
"UNLESS I READ MY VILLAINS VERY WRONG, WE WON'T HAVE TO GO LOOKING FOR THE CREEP.
"HE'LL BE COMING FOR US--AND IRON FIST--AND SOON!
"AN' I THINK IT'LL TAKE MORE 'N A POP-GUN AN' A KING-SIZE STEAK KNIFE TO STOP HIM."
THE POWER--IT FEELS SO... GOOD WITHIN ME, AS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD.
AND ONCE I'VE SLAIN IRON FIST, IT WILL BE MINE FOR ALL TIME. I--THE OUTCAST OF K'UN-LUN--WILL BECOME INVINCIBLE!
OUTCAST--EVEN AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, THE NAME STILL SEARS HIS SOUL.
IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY.
HE'D BEEN THE FIRST-BORN SON OF LEI KUNG THE THUNDERER...
...AND FROM THE BEGINNING, DAVOS KNEW HE'D BEEN MARKED FOR GREATNESS...

BODY BUILDER



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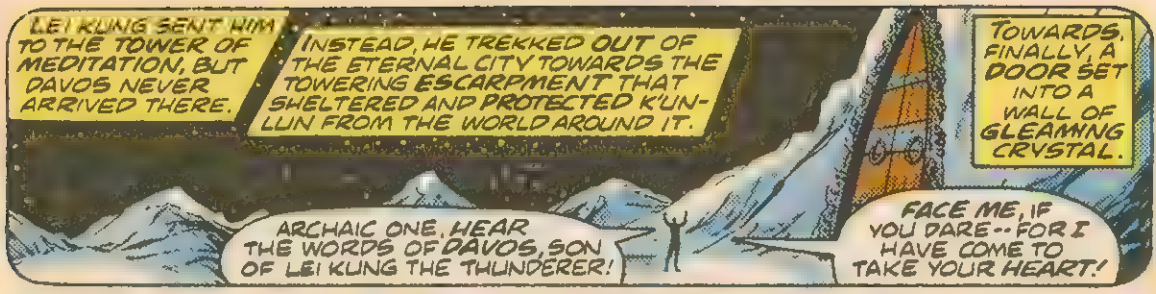
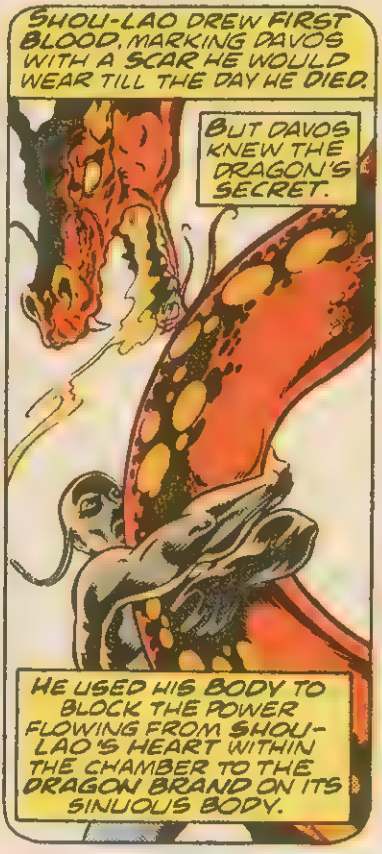
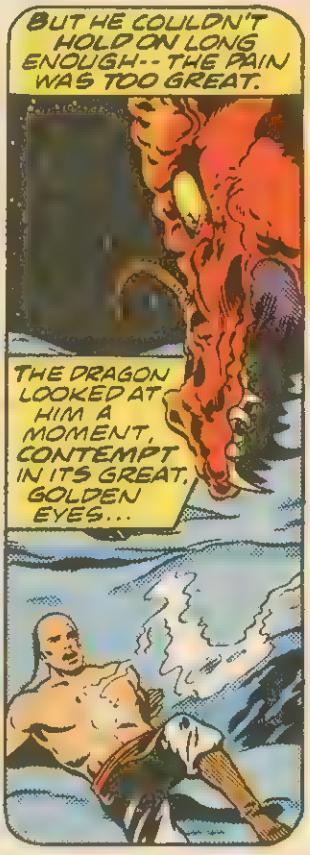
...KNEW--IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS--THAT HE WAS THE CHOSEN ONE OF LEGEND, THE ONE DESTINED TO BECOME...
IRON FIST!
THERE IS THE RITUAL GARB, MY SON. I PRAY THE GODS WILL FIND YOU WORTHY OF IT.
THEY WILL, MY FATHER.
IN ALL K'UN-LUN, ONLY ONE MAN WAS DAVOS' EQUAL: WENDELL RAND-K'AI, FIRST-BORN SON OF TUAN, WHO WAS THEN YÜ-TI, THE AUGUST PERSONAGE IN JADE...
ONE OF THEM--WENDELL OR DAVOS--WOULD FACE THE UNDYING DRAGON, SHOU-LAO...
...THAT ONE TO BE DETERMINED BY A TEST OF COMBAT.
AND WHEN THE TEST WAS OVER...
YIELD, DAVOS--THIS IS NO DEATH-DUEL, AND YOU'VE EARNED HONOR ENOUGH FOR A HUNDRED MEN.
YIELD!
N-NEVER.
ENOUGH!
THE YAMA-KINGS AND I HAVE NO WISH TO SEE A WARRIOR OF K'UN-LUN BEATEN TO A PULP BECAUSE HIS PRIDE WILL NOT LET HIM ADMIT DEFEAT.
WENDELL RAND-K'AI IS VICTOR HERE. HE HAS EARNED THE RIGHT TO FACE SHOU-LAO. YOU HAVE FOUGHT WELL, DAVOS; BE CONTENT WITH...
NO!!
DAVOS, BE SILENT!
THE DUEL CANNOT END--I STILL STAND! YOU DO THIS ONLY BECAUSE WENDELL RAND-K'AI IS YOUR SON!
SILENCE WILL NOT CHANGE THE TRUTH.
THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU WERE FAIRLY BEATEN--
--AND THAT YOUR WORDS HAVE SHAMED US ALL!

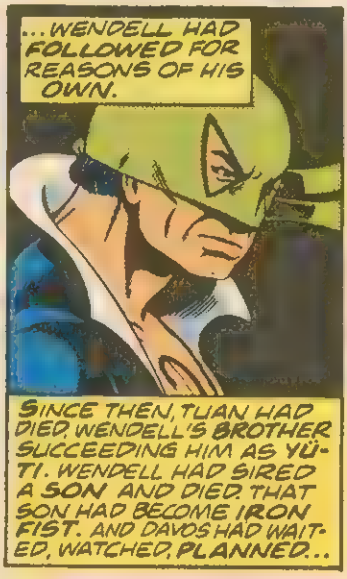

LEI KUNG SENT HIM TO THE TOWER OF MEDITATION, BUT DAVOS NEVER ARRIVED THERE.
INSTEAD, HE TREKKED OUT OF THE ETERNAL CITY TOWARDS THE TOWERING ESCARPMENT THAT SHELTERED AND PROTECTED K'UN-LUN FROM THE WORLD AROUND IT.
TOWARDS, FINALLY, A DOOR SET INTO A WALL OF GLEAMING CRYSTAL.
ARCHAIC ONE, HEAR THE WORDS OF DAVOS, SON OF LEI KUNG THE THUNDERER!
FACE ME, IF YOU DARE -- FOR I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOUR HEART!

FOR A MOMENT, THERE WAS SILENCE.
THEN, WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE ANCIENT DRAGON APPEARED AND ATTACKED.
AARRRGH!


SHOU-LAO DREW FIRST BLOOD, MARKING DAVOS WITH A SCAR HE WOULD WEAR TILL THE DAY HE DIED.
BUT DAVOS KNEW THE DRAGON'S SECRET.
HE USED HIS BODY TO BLOCK THE POWER FLOWING FROM SHOU-LAO'S HEART WITHIN THE CHAMBER TO THE DRAGON BRAND ON ITS SINUOUS BODY.


BUT HE COULDN'T HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH -- THE PAIN WAS TOO GREAT.
THE DRAGON LOOKED AT HIM A MOMENT, CONTEMPT IN ITS GREAT, GOLDEN EYES...

...AND THEN IT WAS GONE.
LEI KUNG FOUND HIM WEEPING IN THE SNOW AND TOOK HIM HOME WITHOUT A WORD.
WENDELL, STRANGELY, DID NOT CHALLENGE THE DRAGON. BUT WHEN K'UN-LUN HAD NEXT APPEARED ON EARTH AND TUAN HAD BANISHED DAVOS TO EARTH TILL THE END OF TIME FOR HIS SACRILEGE...


...WENDELL HAD FOLLOWED FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN.
SINCE THEN, TUAN HAD DIED, WENDELL'S BROTHER SUCCEEDING HIM AS YÜ-TI. WENDELL HAD SIRED A SON AND DIED. THAT SON HAD BECOME IRON FIST. AND DAVOS HAD WAITED, WATCHED, PLANNED...

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YUK! NO SOLID EVIDENCE HERE... BUT I SUSPECT THE CAP'N'S NEARBY.

MEANWHILE, ON A HILLSLOP...

YIKES!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN, SOGMASTER!

HE, HE, HE... HE WON'T BE BUGGING US FOR LONG!

OH NO! WILL SPIDEY FREE THE CAP'N BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE??? HE MIGHT... AND YOU CAN HELP HIM DURING THE "FREE THE CAP'N" SWEEPSTAKES! BOXES OF CAP'N CRUNCH CEREAL HAVE EXCITING GAMES, CLUES AND SECRET PHONE NUMBERS TO TELL YOU HOW. IF YOU DO FREE THE CAP'N, YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE 10,000 WINNERS TO SHARE $1,000,000.

HE, HE, HE... MY GIANT FLY SPLOTTER WILL FINISH THAT PEST!

HMM... MY SPIDER-SENSE TELLS ME I BETTER FIND CAP'N CRUNCH AND SPIN ON OUTTA HERE FAST... OR BREAKFAST'LL BE DOOMED... AND I'LL BE SOGGED!

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...AND NOW, HE'S WON!
HEAR ME, WENDELL RAND-- YOU THRICE-DAMNED SHADE! YOU SOUGHT TO CHEAT ME OF MY HEART'S DESIRE...
...BUT YOU FAILED! THE IRON FIST IS MINE! AND BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS ENDED--
--YOUR CURSED HALF-BREED HUMAN SON WILL JOIN YOU IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD!
HEY, TWINKLE-TEETH, COOL IT WITH THE YELLING!
YOU'LL WAKE THE NEIGHBORS
EH--?!?
THWAP!
I'VE BEEN GRABBED--
--SPIDER-MAN!
HOW BLINDINGLY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU SCAR-FACE
AN' IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS YOU'RE GONNA GET PUNCHED AS WELL--SO DON'T GO WAY!
MISSED!
UNDERESTIMATED HIS SPEED. I KEEP THINKING OF HIM AS A NORMAL GUY--
-- I'M UNCONSCIOUSLY PULLING MY PUNCHES!
AN' I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT'S A MISTAKE.
OOO-OO-OFF!
FWUMP
HHUUU--!
BOY, AM I GLAD MY CAMERA'S OUT OF FILM. THIS KIND OF SHOT JAMESON'D RUN ON PAGE 1.
I'D NEVER LIVE IT DOWN.

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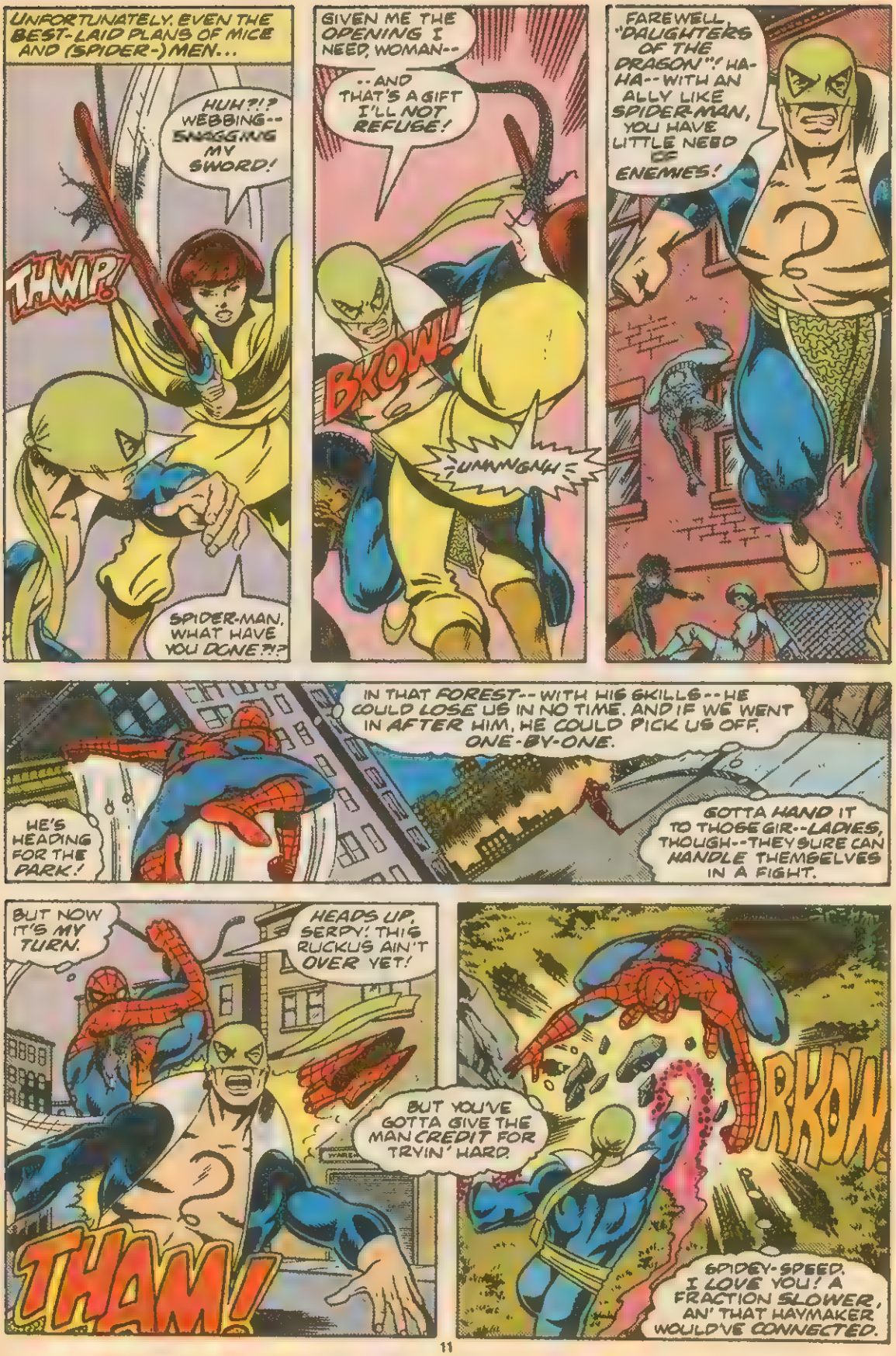
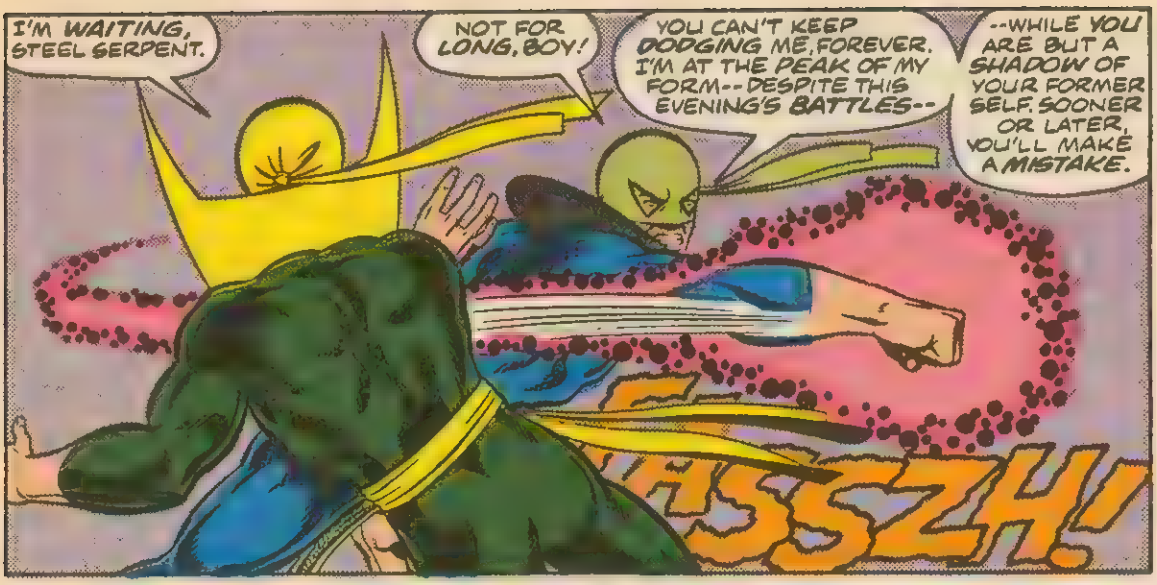
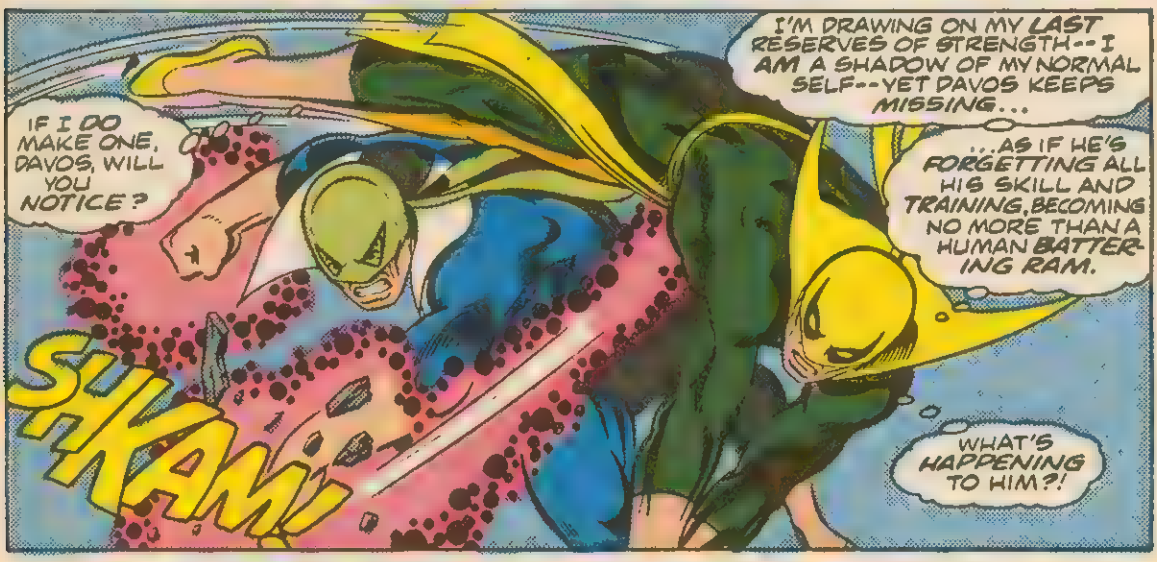
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS THAT OLD SAYING: IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...
...FIND ANOTHER LINE OF WORK. I MISSED AGAIN!
FOOL! HAVE YOU NOT YET LEARNED THAT YOUR SO-CALLED SUPER POWERS ARE NOTHING--
--COMPARED TO THE SUPREME MARTIAL ARTS SKILL OF STEEL SERPENT?
OOPS!
I'M GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG-- TRYING TO FIGHT SCAR-FACE ON HIS TERMS... AND GETTING MYSELF CREAMED.
HE'S AS GOOD A KUNG-FOOER AS SHANG-CHI-- HE'D HAVE TO BE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ON IRON FIST --WHICH MAKES THIS CLOWN SOMETHING SPECIAL.
THAP!
FWUP!
AND AS DEADLY IN HIS OWN WAY AS ANY GOON I'VE EVER FACED.
145
SO AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE KID GLOVES COME OFF!
SURE HOPE THE GIRLS STAYED INSIDE LIKE I TOLD 'EM, 'CAUSE SCAR-FACE IS WAY OUTTA THEIR LEAGUE.
WHERE IS THAT BOZO, ANYWAY?
GUESS I'D BETTER GO UP AND FIND--
--CRIPES! HE'S BEHIND ME!
SPIDEY-SENSE GAVE ME A SECOND'S WARNING--GOTTA ROLL WITH SERPY'S KICK, LET HIM THINK HE'S CLOBBERED ME.
YOU ARE FINISHED, HUMAN!
KRAK

POW!
STICK IT UP YOUR FORBIDDEN CITY, BUSTER!
INCREDIBLE! NEVER HAVE I FELT SUCH A BLOW!
SO TAKE A HINT, WHY DON'T 'CHA?
FALL DOWN.
IMPUDENT PUP! YOUR TAUNTS WILL NOT SAVE YOU.
IT AIN'T WEB-HEAD WHO'S GONNA NEED SAVIN', CHUMP--
--IT'S YOU!!
WHAM!
MISTY'S BIONIC ARM SET STEEL SERPENT UP BEAUTIFULLY!
TAKE HIM, COLLEEN!
MY PLEASURE, MS. KNIGHT
NOW LET'S SEE IF A LADY SAMURAI CAN FINISH THE JOB.
BE THANKFUL WE NEED YOU ALIVE, FELLA, ELSE I'D NOT BE STRIKING WITH A SCABBARDED SWORD--
SHOK!
--BUT WITH NAKED STEEL!
SHE-- MEANS IT!
GOTTA MOVE FAST, HIT SCAR-FACE WITH SOME WEBBING--
--BEFORE SOMEONE DOWN THERE GETS MURDERED!

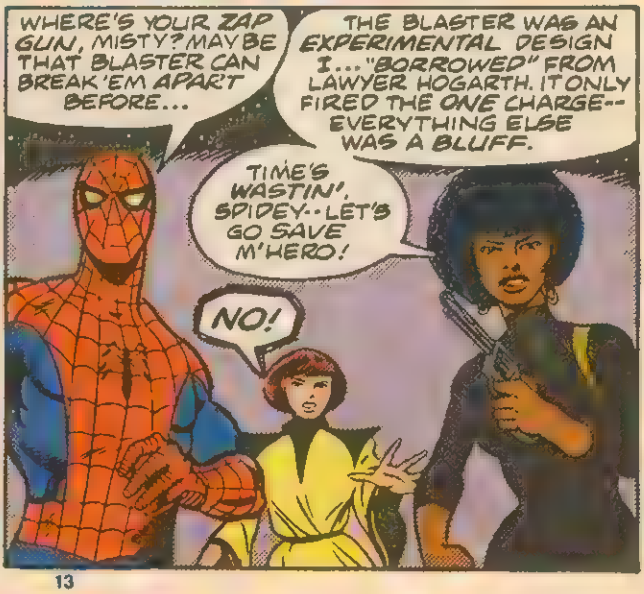

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF MICE AND (SPIDER-)MEN...
HUH?!? WEBBING-- SNAGGING MY SWORD!
THWIP!
SPIDER-MAN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!?
GIVEN ME THE OPENING I NEED, WOMAN--
--AND THAT'S A GIFT I'LL NOT REFUSE!
BKOW!
=UHHHGNH=
FAREWELL, "DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON"! HA-HA--WITH AN ALLY LIKE SPIDER-MAN, YOU HAVE LITTLE NEED OF ENEMIES!
IN THAT FOREST-- WITH HIS SKILLS-- HE COULD LOSE US IN NO TIME. AND IF WE WENT IN AFTER HIM, HE COULD PICK US OFF, ONE-BY-ONE.
HE'S HEADING FOR THE PARK!
GOTTA HAND IT TO THOSE GIR--LADIES, THOUGH--THEY SURE CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES IN A FIGHT.
BUT NOW IT'S MY TURN.
HEADS UP, SERPY! THIS RUCKUS AIN'T OVER YET!
THAM!
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE THE MAN CREDIT FOR TRYIN' HARD.
RKOW
SPIDEY-SPEED. I LOVE YOU! A FRACTION SLOWER, AN' THAT HAYMAKER WOULD'VE CONNECTED.

BUT NOW THAT SCAR-FACE IS OFF-BALANCE, I'VE GOT A CHANCE TO LAND SOME HAYMAKERS OF MY OWN!
KTOW!
SO IT GOES--SPIDEY STAYING JUST OUT OF STEEL SERPENT'S REACH AS HE LEADS THE VILLAIN A MERRY CHASE THROUGH THE DESERTED PLAYGROUND, UNTIL...
I THINK I MADE A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE.
UH-OH!
I HAVE YOU, HERO! HEMMED IN BY THE BASEBALL BACKSTOP..
YOU'RE TRAPPED!
HE'S RIGHT! I CAN'T JUMP THE FENCE FROM THIS ANGLE, AND IF I TRY TO CLIMB IT HE'LL JUST SMASH THE WHOLE THING DOWN.
HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE LAST SECOND AND HOPE I CAN DUCK HIS PUNCH.
IT'S YOUR VAUNTED SPEED AGAINST MINE, WALL-CRAWLER. WHICH WILL PROVE FASTER...?
NEITHER, DAVOS!
FOR YOU WILL NOT HARM SPIDER-MAN UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED ME.
IRON FIST!
BUT WHEN I LEFT YOU, YOU WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, TWINKLE-TEETH!
BOK!
NO, WITLING? JUST WATCH ME!
KRAK
KICK DIDN'T FAZE HIM-- HE'S REACTING TOO FAST--

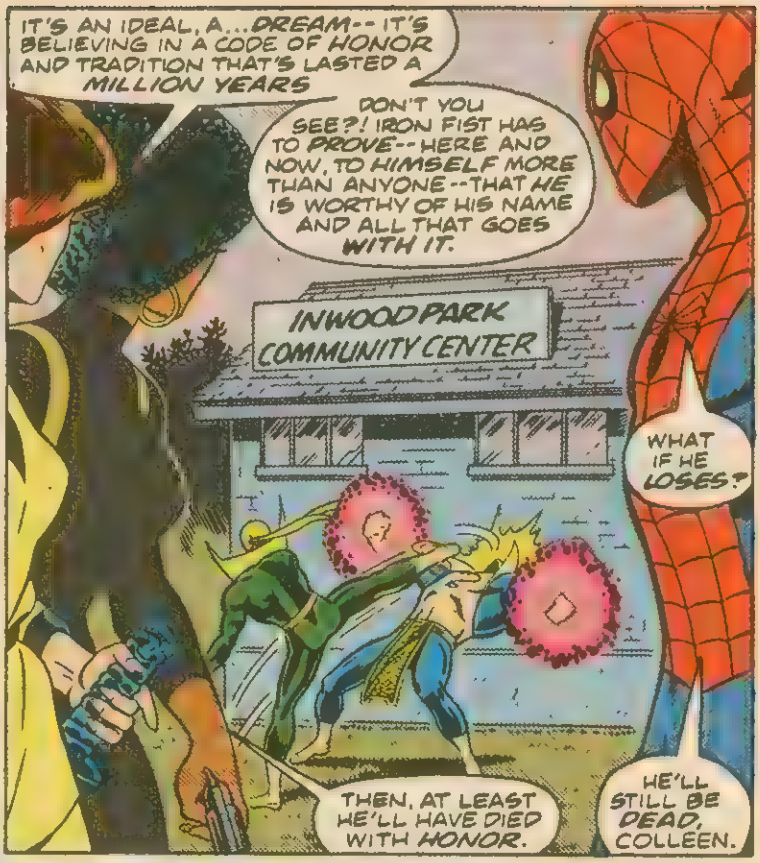

I'M WAITING, STEEL SERPENT.
NOT FOR LONG, BOY!
YOU CAN'T KEEP DODGING ME, FOREVER. I'M AT THE PEAK OF MY FORM--DESPITE THIS EVENING'S BATTLES--
--WHILE YOU ARE BUT A SHADOW OF YOUR FORMER SELF. SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL MAKE A MISTAKE.
FASSZH!

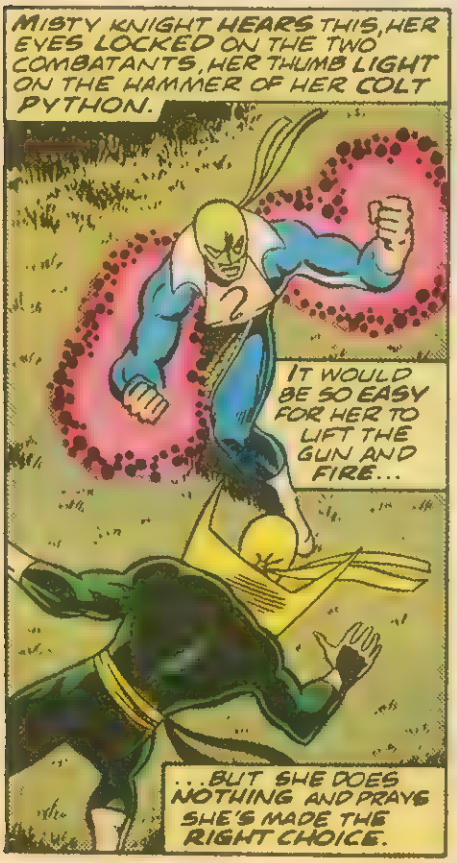

I'M DRAWING ON MY LAST RESERVES OF STRENGTH--I AM A SHADOW OF MY NORMAL SELF--YET DAVOS KEEPS MISSING...
IF I DO MAKE ONE, DAVOS, WILL YOU NOTICE?
...AS IF HE'S FORGETTING ALL HIS SKILL AND TRAINING, BECOMING NO MORE THAN A HUMAN BATTERING RAM.
SHKAM!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?!

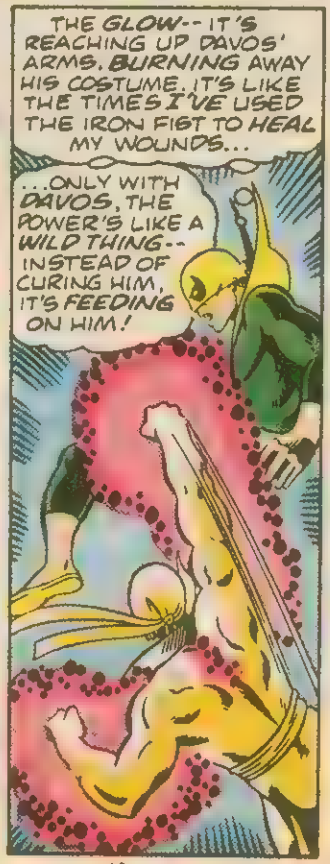
SPIDEY, YOU OKAY?
I'M BREATHING. I GUESS THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING.
BUT--IRON FIST?!? HAS HE LOST WHAT FEW MARBLES HE HAS LEFT?!


WHERE'S YOUR ZAP GUN, MISTY? MAYBE THAT BLASTER CAN BREAK 'EM APART BEFORE...
THE BLASTER WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I..."BORROWED" FROM LAWYER HOGARTH. IT ONLY FIRED THE ONE CHARGE--EVERYTHING ELSE WAS A BLUFF.
TIME'S WASTIN', SPIDEY--LET'S GO SAVE M'HERO!
NO!

LET THEM ALONE!!
MISTY, SPIDER-MAN, LISTEN TO ME--PLEASE! I HAVE A SPECIAL KIND OF... RAPPORT WITH IRON FIST. I KNOW WHAT HE FEELS, HOW HE THINKS--I KNOW... HIM.
BEING IRON FIST IS MORE THAN WEARING A FANCY COSTUME AND HAVING A FIST THAT GLOWS IN THE DARK.


IT'S AN IDEAL, A... DREAM-- IT'S BELIEVING IN A CODE OF HONOR AND TRADITION THAT'S LASTED A MILLION YEARS
DON'T YOU SEE?! IRON FIST HAS TO PROVE-- HERE AND NOW, TO HIMSELF MORE THAN ANYONE--THAT HE IS WORTHY OF HIS NAME AND ALL THAT GOES WITH IT.
INWOOD PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
WHAT IF HE LOSES?
THEN, AT LEAST HE'LL HAVE DIED WITH HONOR.
HE'LL STILL BE DEAD, COLLEEN.

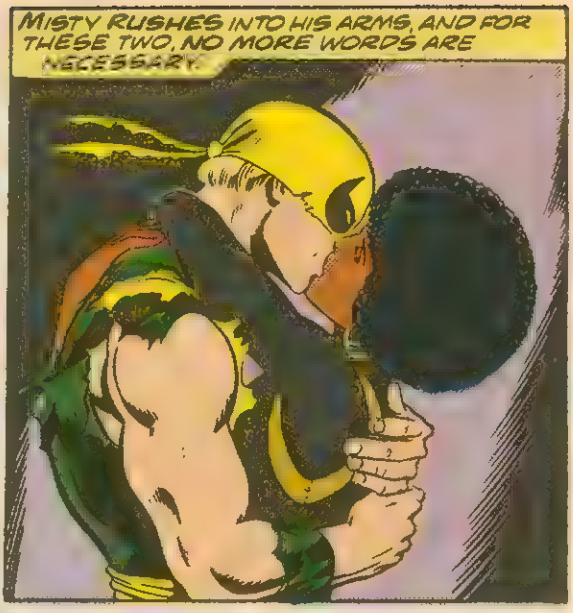

MISTY KNIGHT HEARS THIS, HER EYES LOCKED ON THE TWO COMBATANTS, HER THUMB LIGHT ON THE HAMMER OF HER COLT PYTHON.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY FOR HER TO LIFT THE GUN AND FIRE...
...BUT SHE DOES NOTHING AND PRAYS SHE'S MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

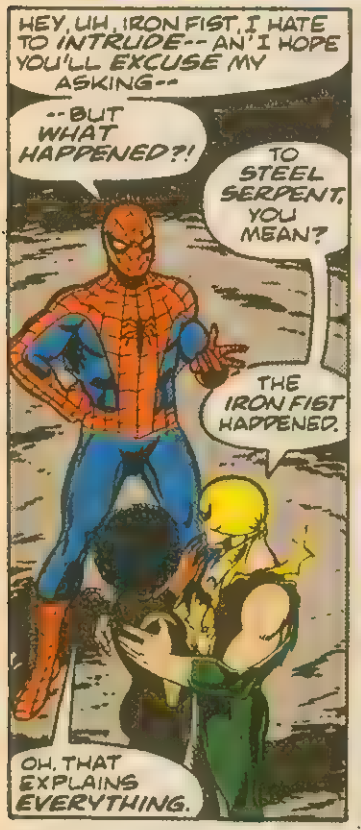

THE GLOW-- IT'S REACHING UP DAVOS' ARMS, BURNING AWAY HIS COSTUME. IT'S LIKE THE TIMES I'VE USED THE IRON FIST TO HEAL MY WOUNDS...
...ONLY WITH DAVOS, THE POWER'S LIKE A WILD THING-- INSTEAD OF CURING HIM, IT'S FEEDING ON HIM!

HEART OF THE DRAGON-- IT CAN'T BE! BUT THERE'S NO OTHER ANSWER.
THE IRON FIST IS A FORCE OF WILL. THE POWER OF SHOU-LAO CAN BE SHAPED BY THE WARRIOR WHO POSSESSES IT. BUT ABOVE ALL--
--IT HAS TO BE CONTROLLED.

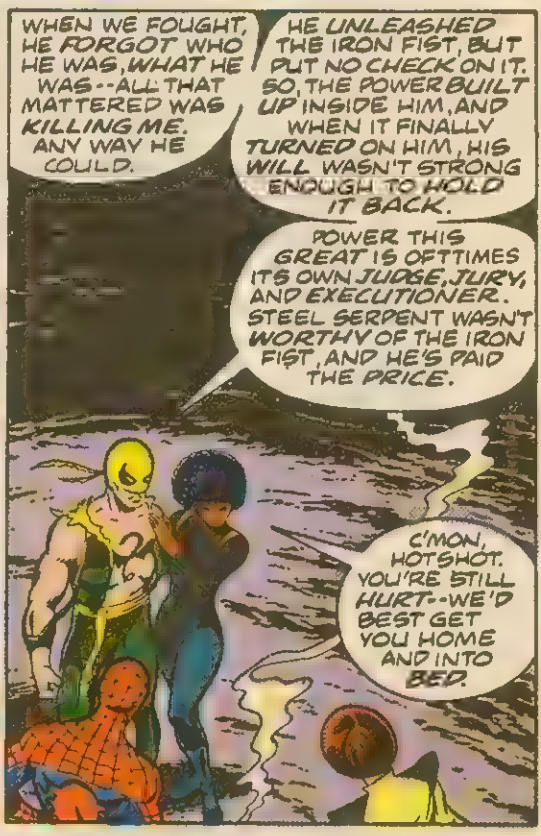
DAVOS HAS FORGOTTEN THAT-- IF HE EVER KNEW-- AND NOW THE POWER'S TURNING ON HIM, CONSUMING HIM!
I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM.
ONLY SECONDS LEFT-- HAVE TO TRY TO ABSORB THE POWER BACK INTO MY BODY-- DRAIN DAVOS AS HE DRAINED ME.
BUT THE POWER--RAGING, TEARING AT HIM BODY AND SOUL-- THE SHOCK MAY KILL BOTH OF US. HAVE TO RISK IT, THOUGH.
NO! YOU'RE TAKING MY POWER! BUT I WON'T LET YOU! I'LL--
SHKOW!
DANNY!
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST, YET AMID A FIFTY-FOOT CIRCLE OF CHARRED AND BROKEN EARTH...
...A FIGURE STIRS.
AND RISES, HIS RIGHT HAND GLOWING WITH THE POWER OF THE IRON FIST...
...MISTY...?

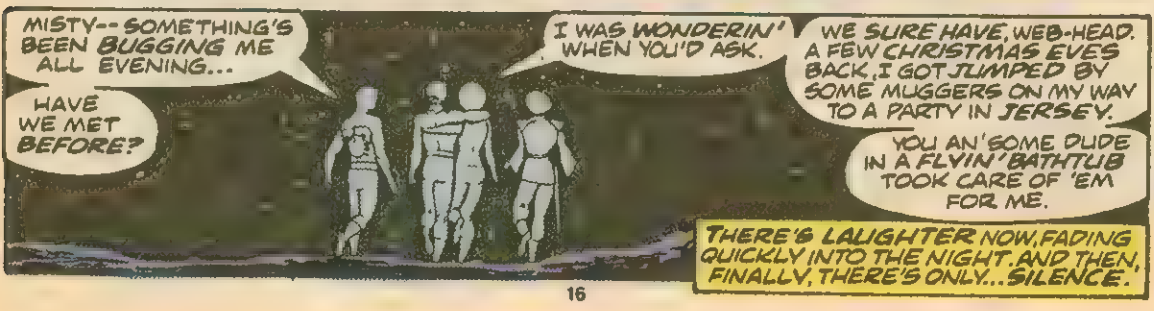
...RETURNED ONCE MORE TO ITS RIGHTFUL MASTER.
DANNY--
OH, GOD,
DANNY!!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT!!


MISTY RUSHES INTO HIS ARMS, AND FOR THESE TWO, NO MORE WORDS ARE NECESSARY.


HEY, UH, IRON FIST, I HATE TO INTRUDE-- AN' I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE MY ASKING--
--BUT WHAT HAPPENED?!
TO STEEL SERPENT, YOU MEAN?
THE IRON FIST HAPPENED.
OH, THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT DOES.
HE WANTED THE IRON FIST MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF-- WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHAT IT WAS.


WHEN WE FOUGHT, HE FORGOT WHO HE WAS, WHAT HE WAS--ALL THAT MATTERED WAS KILLING ME. ANY WAY HE COULD.
HE UNLEASHED THE IRON FIST, BUT PUT NO CHECK ON IT. SO, THE POWER BUILT UP INSIDE HIM, AND WHEN IT FINALLY TURNED ON HIM, HIS WILL WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD IT BACK.
POWER THIS GREAT IS OFTTIMES ITS OWN JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER. STEEL SERPENT WASN'T WORTHY OF THE IRON FIST, AND HE'S PAID THE PRICE.
C'MON, HOTSHOT. YOU'RE STILL HURT--WE'D BEST GET YOU HOME AND INTO BED.


MISTY--SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING ME ALL EVENING...
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
I WAS WONDERIN' WHEN YOU'D ASK.
WE SURE HAVE, WEB-HEAD. A FEW CHRISTMAS EVES BACK, I GOT JUMPED BY SOME MUGGERS ON MY WAY TO A PARTY IN JERSEY.
YOU AN' SOME DUDE IN A FLYIN' BATHTUB TOOK CARE OF 'EM FOR ME.
THERE'S LAUGHTER NOW, FADING QUICKLY INTO THE NIGHT. AND THEN, FINALLY, THERE'S ONLY...SILENCE.

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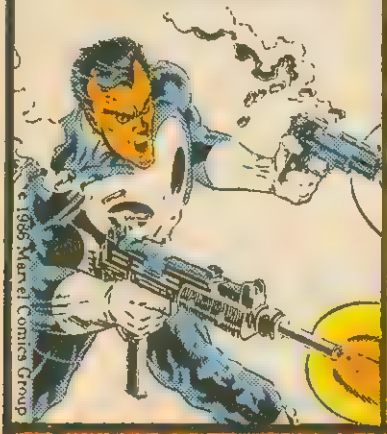

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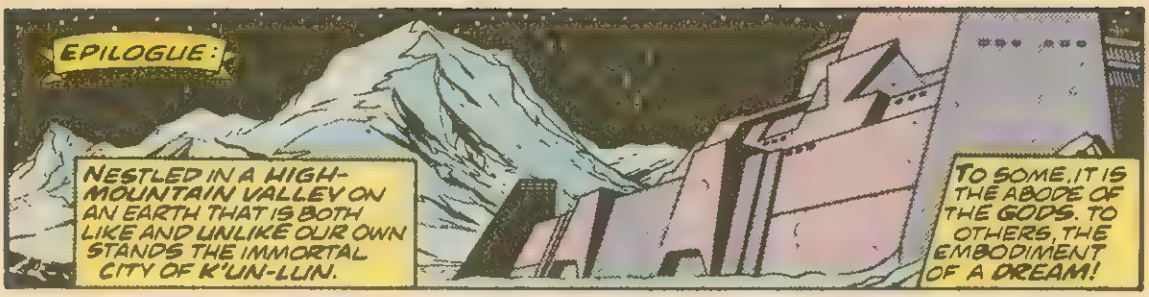
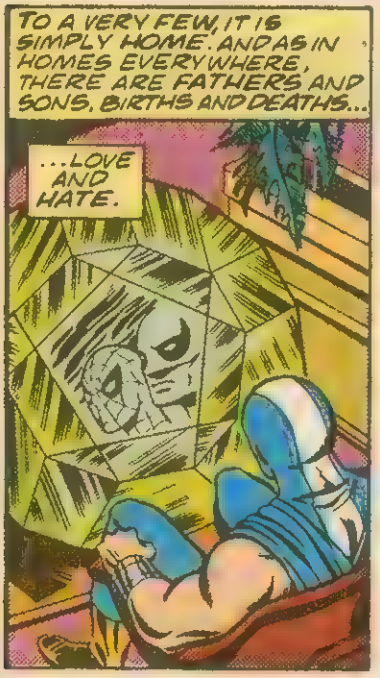
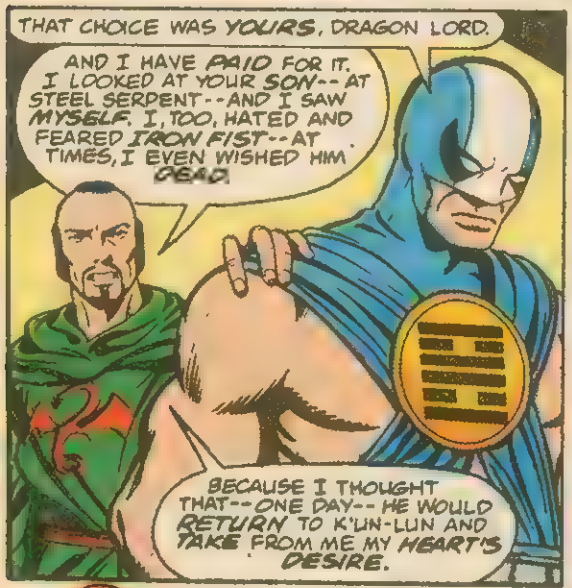
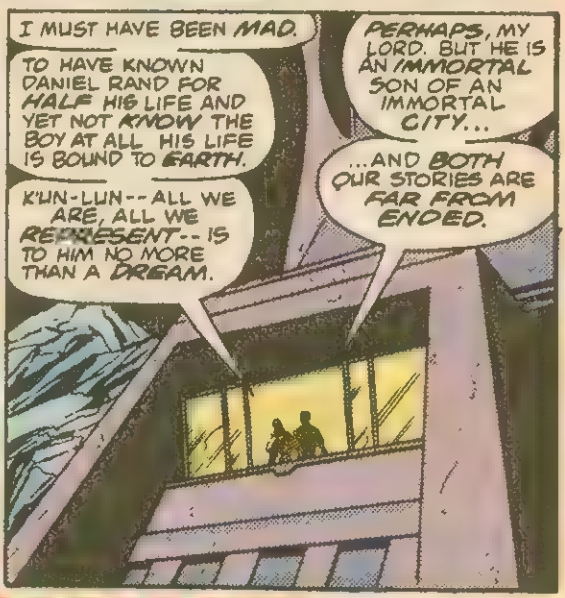

EPILOGUE:
NESTLED IN A HIGH-MOUNTAIN VALLEY ON AN EARTH THAT IS BOTH LIKE AND UNLIKE OUR OWN STANDS THE IMMORTAL CITY OF K'UN-LUN.
TO SOME, IT IS THE ABODE OF THE GODS. TO OTHERS, THE EMBODIMENT OF A DREAM!



AND GRIEF. EVEN IN AN IMMORTAL CITY, MEN GRIEVE FOR THOSE THEY HAVE LOVED... AND LOST.
LEI KUNG!
MY LORD! FOR--FORGIVE ME, YÜ-TI, I DID NOT MEAN TO INTRUDE ON YOUR INNER SANCTUM... I...
I KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THUNDERER. I AM TRULY SORRY FOR YOUR SON'S DEATH. I WISH... I WISH... SO MUCH...


THAT CHOICE WAS YOURS, DRAGON LORD.
AND I HAVE PAID FOR IT. I LOOKED AT YOUR SON--AT STEEL SERPENT--AND I SAW MYSELF. I, TOO, HATED AND FEARED IRON FIST--AT TIMES, I EVEN WISHED HIM DEAD.
BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT--ONE DAY--HE WOULD RETURN TO K'UN-LUN AND TAKE FROM ME MY HEART'S DESIRE.


I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD.
TO HAVE KNOWN DANIEL RAND FOR HALF HIS LIFE AND YET NOT KNOW THE BOY AT ALL. HIS LIFE IS BOUND TO EARTH.
K'UN-LUN--ALL WE ARE, ALL WE REPRESENT--IS TO HIM NO MORE THAN A DREAM.
PERHAPS, MY LORD. BUT HE IS AN IMMORTAL SON OF AN IMMORTAL CITY...
...AND BOTH OUR STORIES ARE FAR FROM ENDED.

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"OH NO! WE'RE GOING TOO HIGH!"
DON'T FORGET TO GRAB THE GUM DINGER POPS."
"HEY, I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THIS."
"POP THE BUBBLE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"
POP!
"I THINK WE BIT OFF MORE THAN WE COULD CHEW THIS TIME."
"YEEEE, WE'RE FALLING."
"WOW, WHAT A GREAT LANDING!"
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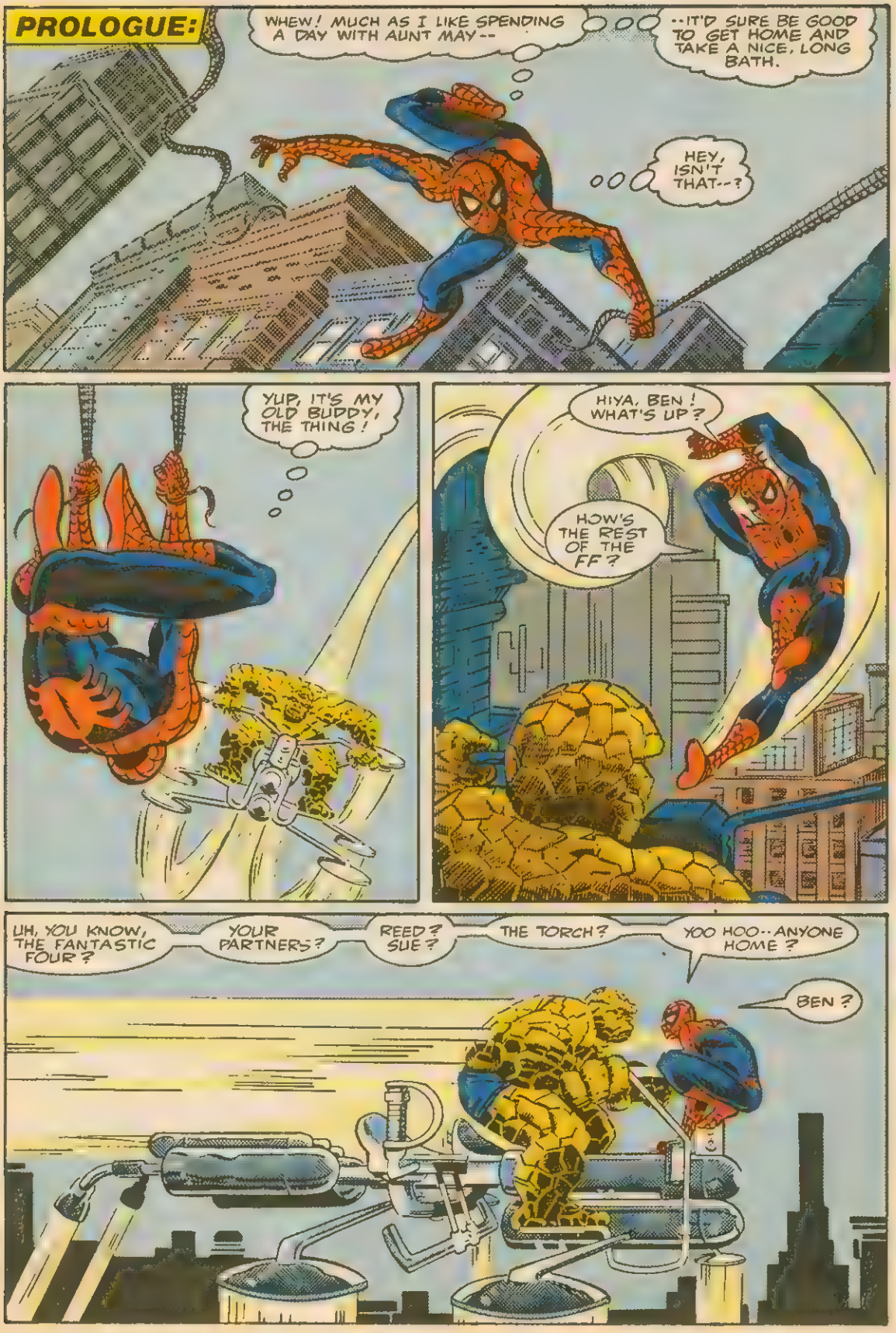
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WHEW! MUCH AS I LIKE SPENDING A DAY WITH AUNT MAY--
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YUP, IT'S MY OLD BUDDY, THE THING!
HIYA, BEN! WHAT'S UP?
HOW'S THE REST OF THE FF?
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THE TORCH?
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BEN?

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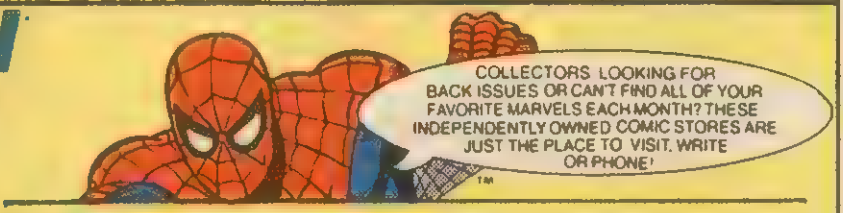
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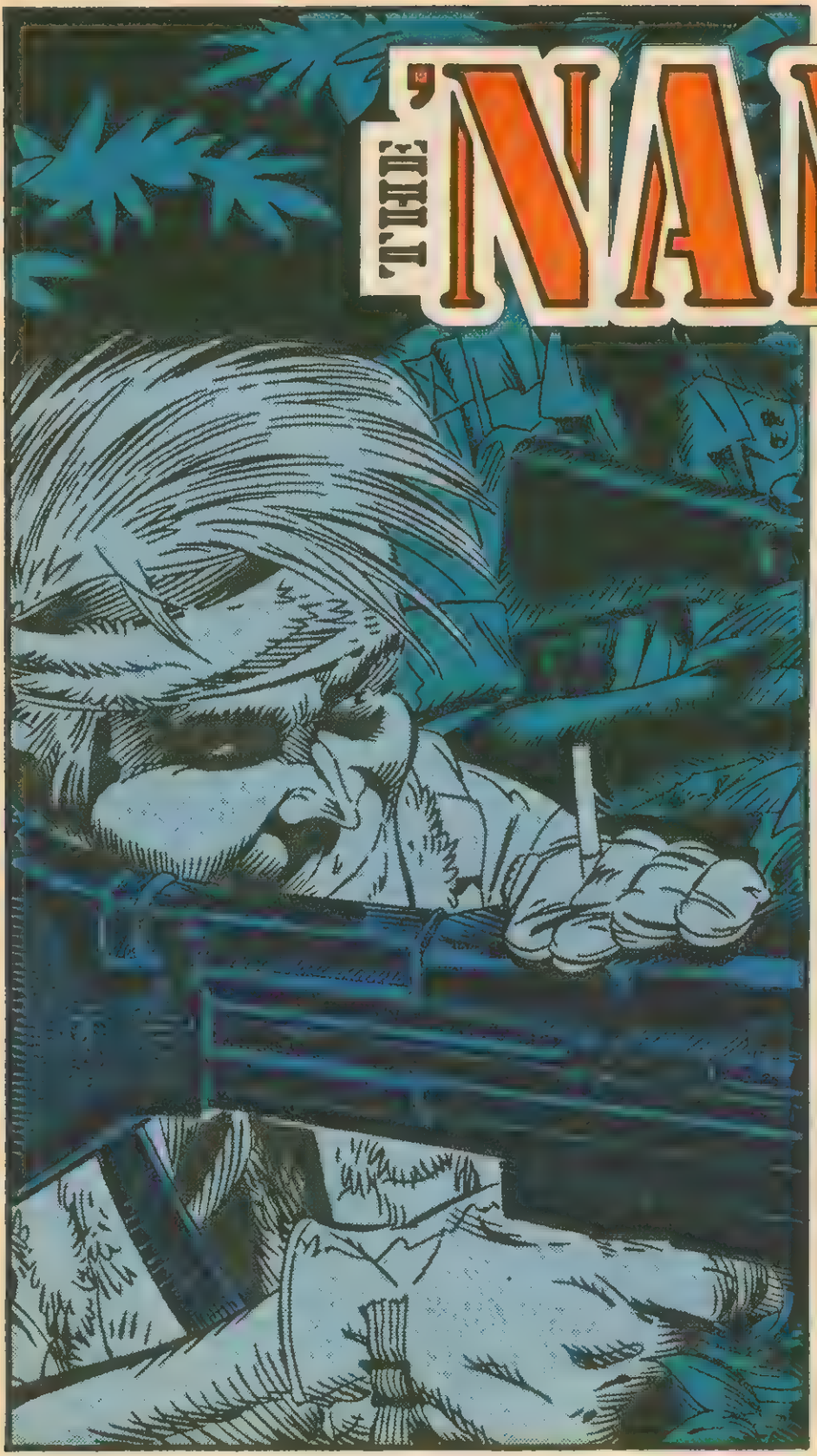
I MEAN, BEN'S NEVER LOVED ME, BUT HE WOULDN'T TRY TO KILL ME--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
--WOULD HE?
THA-KOOM!
NOW WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T JUST LET HIM RUN AROUND LOOSE LIKE THIS!
BUT I CAN'T FIGHT THE GUY EITHER!
AFTER ALL, HE IS A FRIEND!
STAND STILL, BLAST IT!
KROOM!
I'LL SQUASH YA LIKE A BUG!
BESIDES, IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON ME, HE'LL KILL ME!
SKRANG!
THE ONLY CHOICE IS TO PLAY FOR TIME AND HOPE WHATEVER'S MAKING HIM DO THIS WEARS OFF SOON!
YA AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY THAT EASY, YA PUNY CREEP!
AAH, YOUR MOTHER TAP-DANCES WITH GALACTUS!
LOVES
Street Rules
AHHH



THE WAY IT WAS.

Written by Doug Murray Art by Michael Golden

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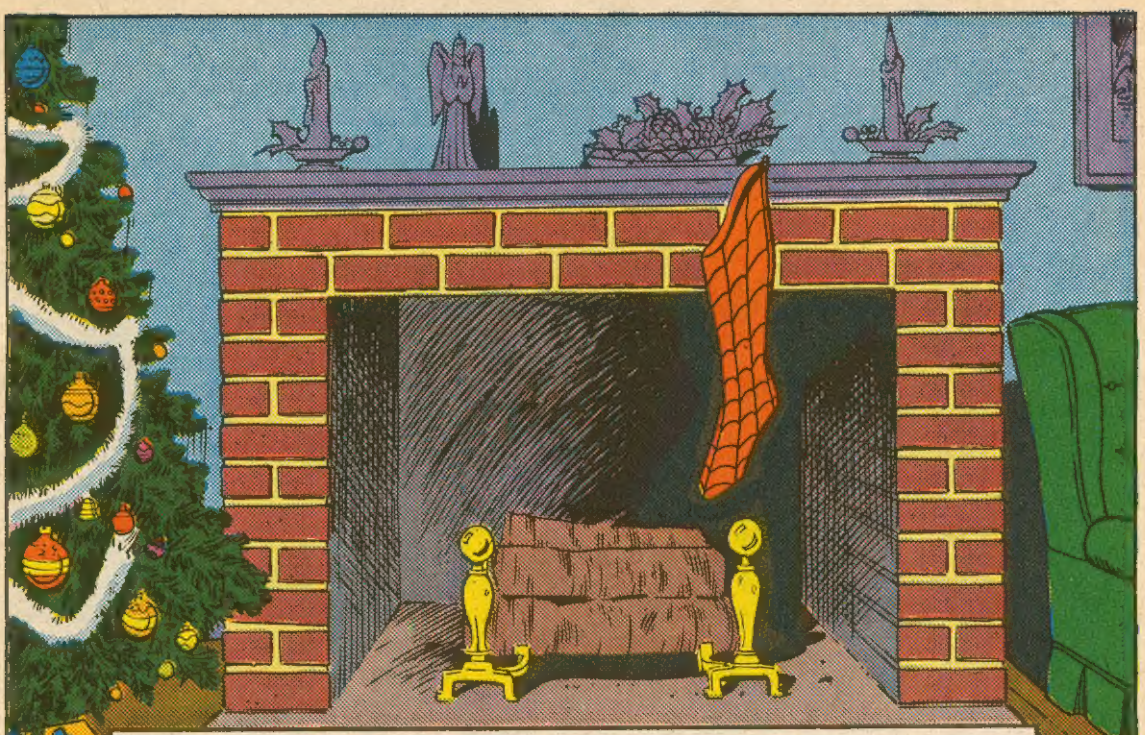
WHERE--?
HE WENT THAT WAY!
THANKS, PAL!
WHAT THE--?
AW, NO!
BLANG!
COME BACK HERE, YA BLASTED INSECT!
NUTS! DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF REACH!
SAY, ISN'T THAT SPIDER-MAN?
NAH, MUST BE A PUBLICITY STUNT!

ULP!
RRRIPP!
YA WANNA PLAY GAMES, HUH? OKAY!
ME, I ALWAYS LIKED PLAYIN' WITH TOPS!
OHH, NOOOOO!
SPAK!
KRAK!
GANGWAAAYYYY!
SKREKRUNGULKRESH
KRAKADOOM!
URGH... CAN'T STAND. CAN'T EVEN SEE STRAIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE... THIS IS IT... IT'S FINALLY...
ZZAT!

...WHUT...?
...WHOZZAT...?
THANK HEAVENS WE WERE IN TIME!
I--I'M NOT DEAD... I THINK...
SORRY, SON. YOU SEE, WE WERE ON THE TRAIL OF OUR OLD FOE, THE PUPPET MASTER, AND BEN HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO FIND HIM FIRST.
P-PUPPET MASTER...?
YEAH, THE PUPPET MASTER WANTED TO GET RID OF THE BIG LUMMOX, SO HE TOOK OVER HIS MIND AND SENT HIM AFTER SOMEONE HE'D NEVER CATCH--YOU!
IT REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
WELL, SORRY, KID! NO HARD FEELINGS, HUH?
WHAT...?
HEY, YOU! YEAH, YOU!
THAT YOUR CUBE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY RESTAURANT?! WHAT ABOUT THAT DAMAGE?! YOU GONNA PAY FOR THAT?! HAH?
THE END



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